

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A gastric implant ~~of the type~~ comprising a strap of material that is flexible but not stretchable associated with a tubular bag (10) of deformable flexible material that is closed at one end (12) and that communicates via its other end with a tube (8) connected to a box (6) having a self-sealing membrane (7) that can be pierced by a needle for injecting and/or removing a fluid so as to control, at will, the extent to which the bag is filled, said strap being provided with means enabling it to be looped in the form of a closed band whose inner peripheral surface is occupied by the bag,

~~the implant being characterized in that~~ wherein:

the strap ~~is constituted by~~ comprises an elongate piece (16) secured to the inside of the bag (10) which is shaped to present a right cross-section that is oblong, being defined by two substantially parallel plane sides (13-14) interconnected by two convex edges (15), ~~while~~ the piece (16) ~~has~~ having a right cross-section that is likewise oblong, with the greatest width thereof being substantially equal to the width of one of the plane sides (13-14);

the piece possesses convex longitudinal edges (19); and

complementary overlapping connection means are provided between the end portions of the strap.

2. (currently amended) A gastric implant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece (16), the bag (10), the overlapping connection means, and the tube (8) are made in substantially one-piece manner.

3. (currently amended) A gastric implant according to

claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece (16), the bag (10), the overlapping connection means, and the tube (8) are made by molding.

4. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A gastric implant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece (16) is defined by two plane faces (17 and 18) and by two rounded edges (19) and ~~in that~~ said piece is connected to the inside of the bag via one of its plane faces which is coplanar with the inside face of one of the plane sides of the bag.

5. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A gastric implant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece (16) has two end portions (21-22) extending beyond the bag, with a first ~~one of them~~ end portion being connected to the tube (8), and ~~in that~~ the overlapping connection means between said end portions ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one series of notches (23) presented by said first portion and a series of D-loops (25) provided set back from the end of the strap opposite to the first end portion.

6. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A gastric implant according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the overlapping connection means ~~comprise~~ comprises, on ~~one of the faces~~ a face of the first end portion, an engagement shape (28) formed close to the connection zone between the first end portion and the bag, and on ~~the~~ a facing face of the second end portion (22), a complementary shape (29).

7. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A gastric implant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the overlapping connection means comprise solely an end portion (21) provided with at least one series of notches (23) and extending from one of the closed ends (11) of the strap, together with D-loops (25) provided set back from the second closed end (12) of said strap.

8. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A gastric implant according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end portion (21) provided with the at least one series of notches presents a shape with two spearhead pieces, defining a duct (33) corresponding to the tube (8), and ~~in that~~ the D-loops (25) are of a shape (34) that is complementary to said duct.

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